

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01937 161652Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /049 W
-----008888 170029Z /42
R 161532Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 378

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1937

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: INT IR TS
SUBJECT: SOLTAN HOSSEIN SANANDAJI, IRANIAN DIPLOMAT

REF: TEHRAN 1851

1. SANANDAJI'S TOUR IN TUNIS WAS RATHER BRIEF: JULY 1976 TO EARLY JANUARY 1978. HE CAME HERE HAPPILY FROM A MISERABLE TOUR IN WARSAW AND LEFT HERE UNHAPPILY AFTER COMING TO DISLIKE TUNISIA TOO, SOMETHING ALMOST ANYONE ELSE WOULD FIND HARD TO DO. HE LIVED UP TO HIS ADVANCE BILLING AS A MAN OF STRONG PREJUDICES.

2. HE IS A TALL, ARISTOCRATIC MAN, ALMOST NORDIC IN APPEARANCE, WHO DOES NOT KNOW YOU LONG BEFORE HE TELLS YOU HE IS A KURD AND NOT JUST AN ORDINARY IRANIAN. HE IS, HOWEVER, THOROUGHLY STEEPED IN THE IRANIAN CLASSICS, LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND FOLKLORE, THE FREQUENT SUBJECT OF LONG (USUALLY BORING) DISQUISITIONS. AS THE RECORD INDICATES HE COMES TO DISLIKE ALL FOREIGN PEOPLES AMONG WHOM HE HAS BEEN POSTED, TENDING TO EMPHASIZE THEIR WORST TRAITS AND THE INVARIABLY ABOMINABLE CLIMATE. HE AND HIS RATHER SICKLY WIFE FOUND TUNISIA MUCH TOO HUMID (ALTHOUGH WE EXPERIENCED A PROTRACTED DROUGHT DURING THE ONE FULL WINTER HE LIVED HERE) AND THE ARABS CONSTANTLY IN ERROR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01937 161652Z

ABOUT THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE, SINCE EVERYTHING THEY HAVE IS TRACEABLE TO PERSIAN ORIGINS INCLUDING THEIR ART, POETRY, MUSIC AND ARCHITECTURE. TUNIS, I BELIEVE, WAS HIS ONLY THIRD-WORLD POST AND HE FOUND THE PEOPLE HERE RATHER PRIMITIVE AS WELL AS DEVIOUS AND DISHONEST. WHEN ONE OF THE LEADING TUNISIAN PAPERS MENTIONED THE "ARAB GULF" INSTEAD OF THE "PERSIAN GULF" IT DUTIFULLY PRINTED A LONG, PEDANTIC,

PATRONIZING LETTER HE WROTE TO THE EDITOR CALLING ON 5,000 YEARS OF HISTORY TO DEFEND THE "PERSIAN GULF".

3. FORTUNATELY, HE LIKES THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICANS. HE REMEMBERS HAPPILY HIS STUDENT DAYS AT GEORGETOWN, HAS ONE SON TRAINED AS A DOCTOR IN THE U.S., AS WELL AS ONE DAUGHTER MARRIED TO A U.S.-TRAINED IRANIAN SURGEON. THE ENTIRE FAMILY SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY AND PREFER ENGLISH TO FRENCH WHICH THEY ALL ALSO SPEAK. HE HAS A FAIR AMOUNT OF CLASSICAL ARABIC. SANANDAJI SPEAKS ALL LANGUAGES POMPOUSLY. HE TRIES TO DOMINATE ALL CONVERSATIONS AND HAS A FIRM OPINION ON EVERY SUBJECT. MY OWN RELATIONS WITH HIM WERE GENERALLY GOOD AND WE WERE PERSONALLY FRIENDLY AS FAMILIES.

5. SANANDAJI LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR AN EARLY END TO HIS TOUR IN TUNIS AND THAT, WHILE HE WOULD WELCOME RETIREMENT, HE WAS "AT HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S DISPOSITION". HE SAID HIS CHIEF AIM IN RETURNING TO TEHRAN WAS TO HELP SET HIS SON AND SON-IN-LAW UP IN MEDICAL PRACTICE IN TEHRAN. THIS DONE HE WOULD WRITE SOME BOOKS HE HAS IN MIND AND POSSIBLY DO SOME LECTURING AT IRANIAN UNIVERSITIES. FOR THESE REASONS WE ARE SURPRISED TO SEE HE HAS STAYED IN DIPLOMACY.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TUNIS01937
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780118-0200
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780357/aaaabwqp.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f8a917c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEHRAN 1851
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3298897
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOLTAN HOSSEIN SANANDAJI, IRANIAN DIPLOMAT
TAGS: PINT, PINR, IR, TS, (SANANDAJI, SOLTAN HOSSEIN)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f8a917c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014